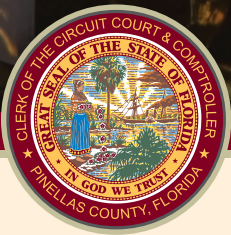
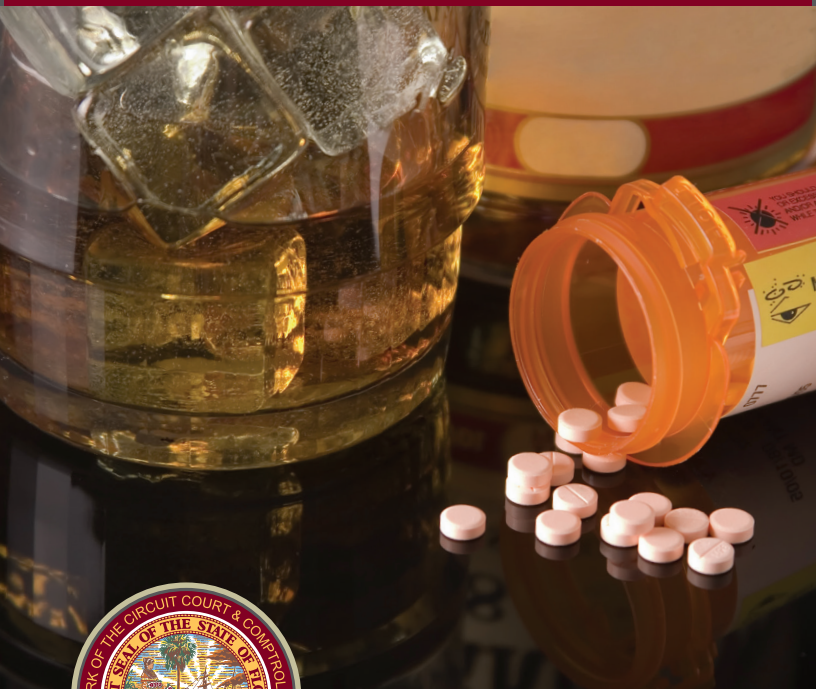


# MARCHMAN ACT: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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The Marchman Act provides individuals in need of substance abuse services with emergency services and temporary detention for substance abuse evaluation and treatment when required.

**KEN BURKE, CPA**  
**CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**  
**AND COMPTROLLER**  
**PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

# MARCHMAN ACT: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Marchman Act petitions that may be filed in Probate Court Records:

- Ex Parte Petition for Involuntary Assessment and Stabilization (IAS)
- Ex Parte Petition for Involuntary Services for Substance Abuse (ISSA).

A Petition for IAS may be filed when there is reason to believe that a person is substance-abuse impaired and:

- has lost the power of self control,
- is incapable of realizing the need for, and unable to make a rational decision about, substance abuse services, or
- has inflicted, attempted or threatened to inflict or, unless admitted to a facility, is likely to inflict physical harm on himself or herself or another.

The petition may only be filed by the person's spouse or guardian, a relative of the person, a director of a licensed service provider, a private practitioner, or any adult who has personal knowledge of the person's substance-abuse impairment.

In the case of a minor, only the parents, legal guardian, or licensed service provider can file a petition.

The petitioner must make arrangements for an available bed in an approved facility before submitting the petition. A \$40 check or money order payable to the Sheriff for serving the summons is required at the time of filing.

To find a facility, go to <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/substance-abuse> or scan this QR code:

Once on the webpage, from the Essential Links section (on left) click on 'For SAMH Providers.' From there, under the paragraph entitled "Substance Abuse Providers Currently Licensed by the Department" click on "this listing." This link brings you to the Department of Children and Families list.



The Order for IAS will be issued if the court finds the criteria have been met. The court may set a hearing or order the sheriff to transport the person to the designated facility. The facility has five days to assess the patient, after which, the petitioner may file a Petition for ISSA.

After a Petition for ISSA is filed, a hearing date is set, the current assessment results are subpoenaed as evidence, and the patient is summonsed to appear. The court will determine if treatment is needed and if the Order for ISSA is warranted.

Petitions may be filed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Clerk's Clearwater Courthouse, North County Branch and St. Petersburg Branch office locations.

For more information, call Probate Court Records at (727) 464-3321 or visit [www.mypinellasclerk.org](http://www.mypinellasclerk.org).

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*Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to use the services provided should call (727) 464-4062 (TDD or Voice). Call 24 hours prior to coming to the courthouse.*

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